

The Ciba Foundation

for the Promotion of International Cooperation in Medical and Chemical Research

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Professor Joshua Lederberg Head, Dept. of Genetics Stanford University Medical School STANFORD California 94305 USA

Dear Joshua,

I shall be retiring from the Directorship of the Ciba Foundation at the end of 1978, and the Trustees and members of the Executive Council of the Foundation have generously proposed that a symposium in June 1978 should be held in my honour.

I have the chance to choose the subject for this symposium and at first my mind turned to what might be called "The Resources of the Human Brain". Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be much in the way of sound investigation which would make such a symposium possible and, as an alternative, I am wondering if I could not work up a useful conference from the present and likely future contributions of genetic research to biology and medicine.

Recently, Pontecorvo drew attention in a lecture to the advances which had occurred since our symposium in Naples in 1959 and which were then thought to be absurdly speculative. I could hardly hope for another meeting on the lines of "Man and his Future", but I should like to stretch the subject - if we do it at all - to the limits of reasonable speculation.

I should particularly welcome your wise and expert advice on the whole idea, and of course should greatly hope that if anything of the sort can be arranged, you would be able and willing to play a leading part in it.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Radm